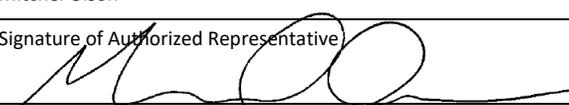


BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION For Fiscal Year 2022

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p>Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC 417 Pine Street Green Bay, WI 54301 (920) 940-0138</p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.</p>	
<p>Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</p>		
<p>Date: March 17, 2022</p>		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>		
<p>Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
<p>Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)</p> <p>Mitchel Olson</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>Chief Development Officer General Counsel</p>	<p>Phone ()</p> <p>920.940.0138</p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> 	<p>Date</p> <p>March 17, 2022</p>	

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$400,000
Federal Employer Identification No. 20-0284635	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$600,000
Contact Name and Title Mitchel Olson – Chief Development Officer General Counsel	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$1,000,000
Telephone Number 920.940.0138	Project Name B.E.S.T. Program - Town of Calumet
E-mail Address(es) mitchel.olson@bugtusselwireless.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant N/A	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) Last-mile
Grant Manager Contact Name N/A	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number N/A
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations	
Fond du Lac County 160 South Macy Street Fond du Lac, WI 54936	Town of Calumet P.O. Box 92 Malone, WI 53049
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) The B.E.S.T. Program - Town of Calumet Project is the deployment of 15.6 miles of fiberoptic last-mile, providing complete coverage in the project area. This project is “Open Access” allows for future expansion and encourages faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which supports immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed 1 Gbps`	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed 1 Gbps
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location 200 mbps	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location 200 mbps

County or Counties served by this project Fond du Lac County	Community or Communities served by this project Town of Calumet
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve Frontier Communications, Bertram Internet, Mercury Network, NSight, US Cellular	
Does proposed project serve an <i>unserved</i> area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no) Yes	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) Yes
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). 8	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). 131
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? 8	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? 131
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) Yes	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Yes	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) Yes
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) Yes	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	B.E.S.T. Program - Town of Calumet

Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 273,008.00	\$ 409,512.00	\$ 682,520.00
2	Equipment	\$ 20,960.00	\$ 31,440.00	\$ 52,400.00
3	Supplies	\$ 81,758.40	\$ 122,637.60	\$ 204,396.00
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 16,473.60	\$ 24,710.40	\$ 41,184.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 19,500.00
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 400,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
60.0% match requested				

Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	Applicant	Cash	\$ 155,000.00
2	Fond du Lac County	Partner	Cash	\$ 290,000.00
3	Town of Calumet	Partner	Cash	\$ 155,000.00
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 600,000.00

FIGURE 1. PROPOSED FIBER ROUTE
— Middle Mile Fiber Route — Proposed Fiber Route

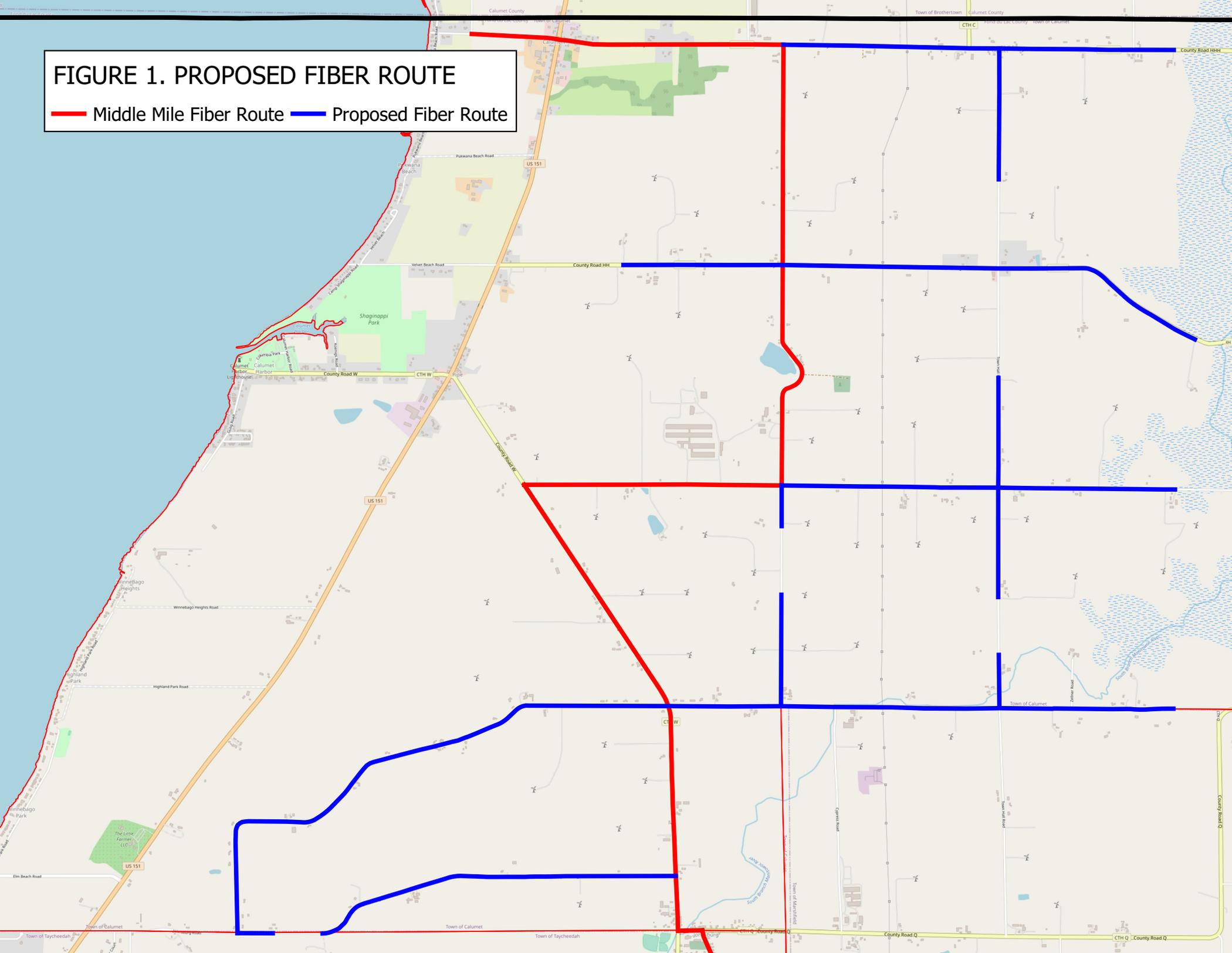
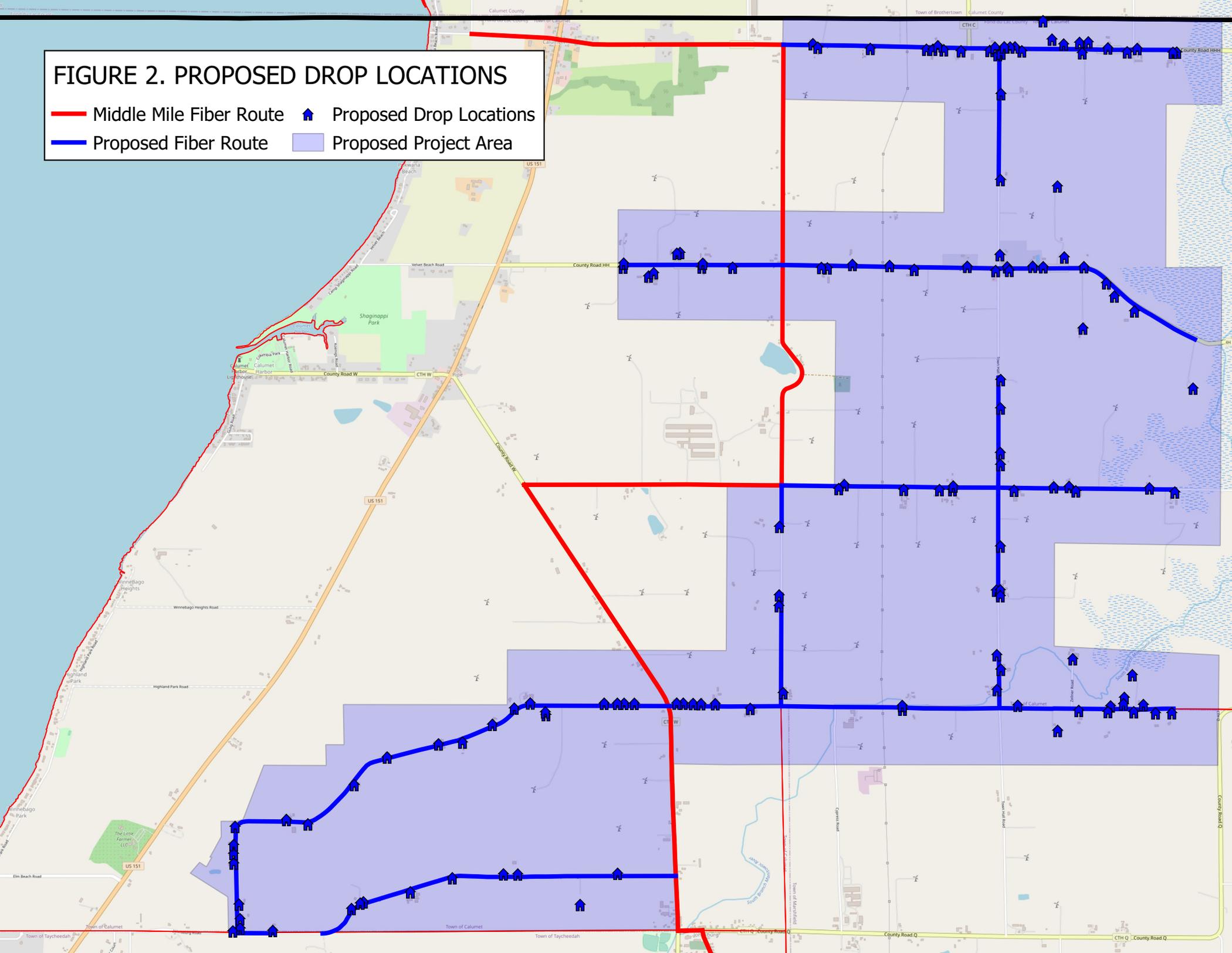


FIGURE 2. PROPOSED DROP LOCATIONS

-  Middle Mile Fiber Route
-  Proposed Fiber Route
-  Proposed Drop Locations
-  Proposed Project Area



3.2 Mandatory application requirements

3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

a. The name and address of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.

Name of Entity: Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC (“Bug Tussel”)
Mailing Address: 417 Pine Street
Green Bay, WI 54701

Contact: Mitchel Olson
Title: Chief Development Officer | General Counsel
Phone: 920.940.0138
Email: mitchel.olson@bugtusselwireless.com

b. If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.

Name of Entity: Fond du Lac County
Mailing Address: 160 South Macy Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54936

Contact: Mr. Allen Buechel
Title: County Executive
Phone: 920.929.3155
Email: executive@fdlco.wi.gov

Name of Entity: Town of Calumet
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 92
Malone, WI 53049

Contact: Mr. Donald Breth
Title: Town Chairman
Phone: 847.867.6306
Email: donbreth@gmail.com

c. The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).

Hilbert Communications, LLC, and its subsidiary, Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC, are Wisconsin Limited Liability Companies, with their headquarters located at 417 Pine Street, Green Bay, WI 54701, and are Eligible applicants, as defined by §196.504(1)(ac)(1).

3.2.2 Description of the project

a. A static map and description of the area of the State that will be affected by the proposed project.

Please see the enclosed project maps, located on pages 5 and 6. The enclosed maps show complete coverage throughout the project area

b. If the project area lies within a census block designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.

Please see the enclosed speed test results, **Exhibit C**, which show the severe lack of broadband access in the project area.

c. An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access. Include information about the:

This project will increase broadband access by making last-mile fiber to the premises connections.

This project will have the capacity to service the 131 households located along the fiber route, in addition to the 8 business. All of the possible connections lack a sufficient level of broadband options, specifically lacking a FTTP option.

The fiber to the premises packages available will include a symmetrical 200 mbps download / 200 mbps upload option for \$64.99, in addition to a 1 Gbps download / 1 Gbps upload option for \$99.99.

d. A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.

The proposed project will consist of last-mile assets.

e. A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.

The network will consist of fiber optic cable connected to GPON/ONT electronics that will provide capacity for over 1 Gbps to each residence and business along the fiber route along with Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM) equipment for traffic aggregation, capable of supporting 200 to 800 Gbps.

f. A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project. The project period is up to 24 months.

Final route design, in conjunction with Bug Tussel’s partners, and engineering will commence immediately following the announcement of the grant award. This process will last through the end of 2022, with construction beginning in early 2023. Construction of the main-line fiber is anticipated to be completed in June, 2023, with last-mile drops and installations beginning shortly thereafter. It is Bug Tussel’s expectation that the project will be completed by June, 2024.

3.2.3 Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

- a. In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures. The application should also indicate whether any facilities involved would be owned, rented, or leased.

At this time, Bug Tussel does not intend to purchase any equipment to facilitate construction pursuant to this grant application. All assets installed incident to this project will be owned and operated by Bug Tussel, or a related entity.

- b. The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidize means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

The sole purpose of the grant contemplated herein is to facilitate the construction of fiber assets. The grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of Bug Tussel, nor will it be used to subsidize the costs paid by customers.

- c. The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:

Other than the work done in formulation of this grant application, no planning, engineering, permitting, or construction has taken place. All of the costs of this project, as identified on the enclosed budget, will be incurred during the performance period.

3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

- a. **Matching funds.** A description of the matching funds the applicant will invest in the proposed project, if any. For each element, indicate the type of match (cash, salary expense, or in-kind contribution). If the application is submitted by a partnership, identify the partner responsible for providing each element of the proposed matching funds. *Note: The requirement for this information is satisfied via inclusion of the completed Funding Statement as page 4 of the application.*

As discussed in Section b below, through the Broadband Expansions Serving Townships (B.E.S.T.) Program, and additional funding sources, Bug Tussel and its partners are pledging a total of \$600,000, or 60% of the total project cost.

- b. **Public-private partnerships.** If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement. If the partnership has not been reduced to a written agreement, provide a short description of the management role, financial commitment, or other contribution to the project for each participating partner.

As part of the B.E.S.T. Program, Bug Tussel is partnering with Fond du Lac County and the Town of Calumet to bring broadband access to the project area. Bug Tussel will own and operate all assets.

The creation of the public private partnerships between Bug Tussel and Fond du Lac County and Bug Tussel and the Town of Calumet are memorialized by Agreements to Establish Public Private Partnership for the Purpose of Applying for a Broadband Expansion Grant (attached as **Exhibits A and B**).

c. Existing broadband service. A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:

The design of the project contemplated herein has given significant priority to areas avoided by existing internet service providers.

As shown on Table 1 below, several providers have some level of coverage in the project area. This coverage, however, is rarely, if ever, capable of reliably providing broadband service at speeds of 25 mbps download / 3 mbps upload. The services currently offered in the project area do not meet the needs of the residences and businesses in the project area, which is our sole motivator in undertaking this project.

Table 1. Internet Service Providers.

Service Provider	Technology Platform	Price Range	Advertised Download Speeds	Advertised Upload Speeds
Frontier Communications	DSL	Unknown without service address	18 mbps	1.0 mbps
Bertram Internet	Fixed Wireless	\$124.95/month	50 mbps	6.0 mbps
Mercury Network	Fixed Wireless	Unknown without service address	75 mbps	25 mbps
NSight	Fixed Wireless	Unknown without service address	0.7 mbps	0.4 mbps
US Cellular	Fixed Wireless	Unknown with service address	2.0 mbps	.064 mbps

d. Project impact. A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known. Explain the speed and quality of internet service that will be available. Include information about the range of packages available for purchase. Provide details on any low-income access programs and steps the project will take to support adoption.

This project will have a profound impact on broadband access in the Town of Calumet. Of the 139 homes and businesses that will be able to immediately take service, all are in areas where broadband access is severely lacking, both in terms of access and affordability.

This expanded access will enable improvements in the lives of the residents of Town of Calumet by enabling remote work opportunities, improving access to educational opportunities, and enhancing access to medical services and information.

e. Scalability. A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:

Bug Tussel is undertaking a significant fiber-optic build out across Wisconsin, with proposed projects in more than 45 of the 72 counties. When completed, this will create a statewide, rural focused fiber optic network with as many as 60 redundancies between the end user and the destination of their data traffic.

For too long, networks have been designed on an ad hoc basis, connecting only those areas with significant enough population to allow for a quick return on investment. This has resulted in unreliable networks that travers through entire communities without making connections to the residents. Bug Tussel has designed networks that focus first on reliability and need, and has found that profitably follows closely when you put the community, and its residents, first.

The project contemplated herein, as part of the statewide network design, will have the capacity to serve the totality of the project area, with the ability to have its boundaries expanded in subsequent phases. This project is a last-mile expansions of a middle-mile that is being installed over the course of 2022. As a complete solution for the project area, this project will accomplish the broadband goals of the Town of Calumet for the project area, allowing future expansion efforts to focus on other areas.

f. Economic development. A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region. This description may be supplemented with a letter from one or more persons discussing the potential economic impact the project could have for that individual or business. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:

County governments, municipalities, commercial organizations, and economic development advocates have all identified the need for expanded broadband to meet current needs, to anticipate future needs, and to promote economic development. The presence of these facilities does not guarantee economic success but the lack of broadband and fiberoptic backbone transport guarantees the likelihood of economic stagnation and a potentially substandard economic development atmosphere.

A 2019 study by the UW-Extension noted that that a 10% increase in Internet speeds at the county level leads to average increased housing values from \$230 to \$661. The study also quantified that as more households reach these increased speed, quantifiable results will be seen in higher township tax revenues.

When considering the effect of “internet coverage” one typically thinks of email and browsing the internet. The economic reality of a robust communications network is critical for the following applications:

- Law enforcement and public safety from local agencies to the FBI/CIA and FEMA.
- Educational purposes in schools and to reduce costs for school districts through online textbooks and lifelong learning processes.
- Agricultural purposes such as irrigation controls, mapping of soil conditions, amount of fertilizer needed per square meter or yard, yield mapping, monitoring cows for milk fever or bloat, asset management, logistics for fuel and commodity delivery.
- Transportation purposes such as trucking logistics and safety, railroad switching and monitoring of bearings to prevent derailments, package tracking, management of delivery routes and many others.
- Home security and automation including childcare oversight, geriatric monitoring, ambient intelligence where personal preferences are automatically

implemented in a home or business, security alarms and monitoring, monitoring critical appliances such as freezers and refrigerators, sump pumps, and HVAC controls.

- Medical and health purposes such as blood clot monitoring, oversight of insulin and pain pumps, in home cancer treatments, exercise and diet monitoring, heart monitoring and automatic adjustment of pacemakers and other heart monitors, attention and communication tools for those suffering from autism, cerebral palsy or other communication limiting diseases.
- Remote delivery and transportation systems such as drones and self-driven vehicles.

Improved broadband coverage throughout the Town of Calumet will also enhance the many recreational opportunities available to both individuals that live in the project areas and to visitors to the Town of Calumet.

g. Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas. A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

This project provides complete coverage for the project area, but will not impair further development of the adjacent areas. The project area was designed using information provided by neighboring providers, and provides coverage beyond their existing boundaries in underserved and unserved areas.

Bug Tussel’s last-mile fiber will allow immediate access to those along the route, and it was designed not with dense population areas as the prime motivator. This will facilitate further development, by Bug Tussel and other competing broadband service providers, by completing the area and reserving capital for future development in adjacent areas.

3.2.5 Other information supporting the application

a. A description of applicant’s history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the State and elsewhere.

As a growth oriented company with a statewide footprint, Bug Tussel has a long history of undertaking projects of this magnitude.

Through the PSC, Hilbert Communications, and its subsidiaries, have been awarded a number of grants, as shown on Table 2 below. All projects have been completed, or are in the process of being completed, within the parameters outlined in each respective grant application:

Table 2. Grant Awards.

Grant	Year	Technology	Status	Customers
Oneida County - I	2015	Fixed Wireless	Completed	199
Oneida County – II	2017	Fixed Wireless	Completed	256
Florence County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	42
Oneida County – III	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	179

Juneau County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	25
Green County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	93
Oneida County – IV	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	169
LaFayette County	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	24
Green Lake County	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	31
Town of Deerfield	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	7
Oneida County – V	2019	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Kewaunee County	2020	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Menominee County	2020	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Forest County	2020	Fixed Wireless / Fiber	Pending	Pending
Green County	2020	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Iowa County	2020	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Florence County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Fond du Lac County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Iron County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Wood County – SW	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Wood County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Kewaunee County	2021	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Forest County	2022	Fiber	Pending	Pending

Bug Tussel completed a number of American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grant applications that were not awarded, and four of those projects will commence irrespective of the grant award. Construction on fiber-optic networks in Marathon, Waushara, Calumet, and Fond du Lac Counties will begin this spring.

b. A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.

The project area is one where legacy providers have not continued to make the investments necessary to support modern technological advancement. As discussed above, existing access exists only in areas where profitability facilitated the investment, which leaves large geographic tracts throughout project area with little to no broadband access. This project seeks to serve the underserved and unserved, and does so in areas with insufficient levels of reliable broadband.

c. A description of an applicant’s financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project. This may include information such as the number of years the company has been in operation, documentation of successful completion of similar infrastructure projects, evidence that sufficient funds are available to cover project expenditure and match, customer turn-over rates, and credit rating.

Bug Tussel Wireless was founded in 2003, and in 2008 joined forces with McKinley Reserve and Paul Gehl to form Hilbert Communications through a merger of seven companies. With the goal to remedy the dire need for broadband and cellular access of those living in rural communities, Bug Tussel has grown substantially in its nearly 20 year history.

The core investment group has made investments in rural wireless and broadband in excess of \$30 million and is currently completing a series of financing agreements to fund over \$500,000,000 of new capital projects through a number of joint ventures with private equity firms and public bond issuances. Consolidated revenues per Hilbert’s most recent audited financial statements is nearly \$65,000,000, a doubling year on year increase.

Bug Tussel has a proven track record of operating, maintaining, and continually investing in its network to provide its thousands of rural customers with the best technologies on the market. Collaborating with partners like AT&T, Bug Tussel currently operates approximately 600 broadband and cellular sites throughout rural Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa. Further, Bug Tussel has a rapidly expanding fiber footprint with existing fiber assets in Forest and Oconto Counties, as well as ongoing projects in Iowa, Green, Kewaunee, Marathon, Forest, Fond du Lac, Calumet, and Waushara Counties all set to be completed in 2022.

Bug Tussel and its subsidiaries can provide turnkey solutions for nearly any rural community. From site acquisition, tower construction, network operations, and sales and service, Bug Tussel can connect rural communities and keep residents competitive with larger urban centers.

Bug Tussel has been very deliberate in its network design creating significant redundancies through the use of “ring design” and a combination of over the air and fiberoptic connectivity resulting in industry high performance standards. This design and reputation resulted in the award of construction and operational contracts with AT&T for a portion of the FirstNet® National Emergency Communications Network. Bug Tussel brings the same reliability and redundancy design to an individual customer in rural Wisconsin as it does to a national emergency communications network.

Bug Tussel also believes that networks need to be sustainable and as such cannot be reliant on future grants or funding but must seek creative ways in rural markets to leverage assets. This application and our entire network leverages assets and relationships to create a superior network. Bug Tussel is in the final stages of a national build agreement with AT&T, with nearly 350 sites completed across Wisconsin and southwestern Iowa that also provides a basis for our broadband network and makes broadband possible on AT&T's network. Since 2018, Bug Tussel has ramped its site acquisition and construction teams from 2 to 4 sites per month to up to 20 sites per month and has completed nearly 200 sites in a single year. These sites met the stringent quality standards of FirstNet and of AT&T. They also met our own stringent quality standards for each rural customer.

d. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services.

National studies provide evidence of cost savings with the use of telehealth services. In a pre-COVID-19 study of 40,000 Cigna beneficiaries, the 20,000 beneficiaries who used the MDLive telehealth platform had 17% lower costs when compared with non-virtual care. Virtual care users also experienced a 36% net reduction in ED use per 1,000 people compared to non-virtual care users (Healthcare IT News). The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Report of the Taskforce on Telehealth Policy discusses a variety of evidence that the use of telehealth services lowers the overall cost of care. We are confident that this national data can be extrapolated to this project area. Considering that in-person health care services are 20 or more miles away for many residents of the project area, use of telehealth also results in savings related to travel and time away from work or school.

e. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.

There are many online educational programs currently available for students of all ages in the project area. Several school districts have on-line learning labs, where a student can be physically located in their high school but take a class for college credit. While K-12 schools have largely returned to in-person instruction, some families prefer an on-line option. With improved internet access, families in the project area may wish to open-enroll in accredited online schools such as Acellus Academy, Virtual Charter Schools, or the Wisconsin Connections Academy.

Adult professional continuing education has made a major shift to online course delivery, and will be aided by this project. Rural health care providers at all levels, from nursing assistants to sub-specialty physicians, REALTORS, HVAC technicians, accountants, firefighters, childcare providers and others need access to highspeed internet for continuing education to maintain credentials and improve skills.

f. A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:

This project is the result of a true partnership between Bug Tussel, Fond du Lac County, and the Town of Calumet. From planning and design forward, Bug Tussel and its partners have been engaged, and will continue to be engaged to complete the shared goal of expanded broadband access throughout the project area.

Moreover, Bug Tussel will continue to partner with Fond du Lac County and the Town of Calumet following the completion of the construction project. Bug Tussel works diligently to level the playing field so that rural areas can utilize the same types of services as urbanized areas and therefore able to fully compete economically and socially to attract and retain residents and businesses. Through its community outreach component, Bug Tussel University, Bug Tussel will work with Fond du Lac County and the Town of Calumet to provide educational seminars ranging from basic classes (“How to use the internet” and “How to use social media”) to more advanced curriculum. Bug Tussel University personnel are always very engaged in the communities in which Bug Tussel operates, seeking user feedback on ways to assist them in connecting technology and the community.

g. Letters and messages in support of the application submitted by prospective customers, local government officials, and other interested persons.

Please see the attached Letters of Support from a school and business that will be served by this project, attached as **Exhibit D**.

EXHIBIT LIST

- A. Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Public-Private Partnership with Hilbert Communications, LLC and Supporting the Application to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for Broadband Expansion Grants in Partnership with Hilbert and Bug Tussel – Fond du Lac County**
- B. Agreement to Establish Public Private Partnership – Town of Calumet**
- C. Speed Test Results**
- D. Letters of Support**

RESOLUTION NO. 111-21

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
WITH HILBERT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC AND SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION
TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN
FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANTS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HILBERT AND BUG TUSSEL**

WHEREAS, Hilbert Communications, LLC (“Hilbert”) and its subsidiary broadband wireless internet service provider company, Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC (“Bug Tussel”), desire to commence a project consisting of the construction and operation of certain fiber optic assets to provide the most advanced infrastructure to the unserved and underserved residents of the Town of Calumet, which constitutes a public purpose, and

WHEREAS, Fond du Lac County desires to pursue Broadband Expansion Grants offered by and through the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.504, and

WHEREAS, Fond du Lac County considered Hilbert and Bug Tussel’s proven track record of community partnerships and their proposal to expand broadband to unserved and underserved areas of the Town of Calumet and hereby recommends partnering with Hilbert to pursue Broadband Expansion Grants, and

WHEREAS, Hilbert and Fond du Lac County desire to pursue and make application, due March 17, 2022, for any and all grant money available for broadband coverage, and

WHEREAS, Hilbert and Fond du Lac County are willing and able to create a contemplated public-private partnership to provide the latest advancements in broadband coverage and to seek all available grants to provide and subsidize the cost of necessary broadband infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, Fond du Lac County has committed \$290,000 of local funds to support the project, contingent on grant award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors authorizes the contemplated creation of a public-private partnership with Hilbert and supports the application to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for Broadband Expansion Grants in partnership with Hilbert and Bug Tussel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors intends to commit \$290,000 of local funds in financial support for the proposed project, contingent upon the grant award and funds being disbursed to applicant, within 12 months of the date the grant award is accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper county officials shall enter into an agreement to establish a public-private partnership for the purpose of applying for Broadband Expansion Grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate county officials are authorized and empowered to do all such acts and to execute, acknowledge, and deliver all such documents necessary or desirable to fulfill the intent of this resolution.

Dated March 15, 2022

**SUBMITTED BY:
FINANCE, PERSONNEL AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Martin S. Ryan

Kenneth W. Depperman

Martin F. Farrell

Brian T. Kolstad

Dean P. Will

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution does not require an appropriation from the county general fund. Fond du Lac County's commitment of \$290,000 of funds is contingent upon the grant award and funds being disbursed to the applicant. Fond du Lac County has 12 months at the date of the grant award being accepted by Hilbert and Bug Tussel to disburse the \$290,000 to Hilbert and Bug Tussel. At the time of acceptance of the grant award by Hilbert and Bug Tussel, Fond du Lac County will do a resolution to amend the adopted budget and commit the \$290,000 of funds to this broadband project. The county is supporting a public-private partnership for the purpose of applying for Broadband Expansion Grants with Hilbert and Bug Tussel.

APPROVED BY:



Allen J. Buechel
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED BY:

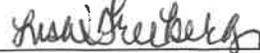
Meggin R. McNamara
CORPORATION COUNSEL

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify this to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 111-21.

Ayes 21 Nays 0 Abstained 0 Excused 0 Absent 4

Approved and adopted this 15 day of March 2022.

Denied this _____ day of _____.



Lisa Freiberg
COUNTY CLERK

VOTING RESULTS

21

AVE

0

NAY

0

ABSTAIN

4

ABSENT

S1g. Resolution No. 111-21



Passed By Majority Vote

FARRELL	AVE	EXCUSED
G. WILL	AVE	
MADIGAN	AVE	
M. WILL	AVE	
EVERSON	AVE	
BEER	M	AVE
KAUFMAN		EXCUSED
SIMON		AVE
DORNBROOK		AVE
DEPPERMAN	S	AVE
ABEL		AVE
STENZ		EXCUSED
RICKERT		AVE

GIESE		EXCUSED
FENRICK		AVE
HILLS		AVE
MYRECHUCK		AVE
KITCHEN		EXCUSED
ZORN		AVE
ALDRICH		AVE
D. WILL		AVE
KOLSTAD		AVE
RYAN		AVE
HAYES		AVE
HAMMOND		AVE



March 15, 2022 - March 15 2022 08:26:42 PM



AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR A BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT

THIS PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made this 2nd day of March, 2022 ("Effective Date") by and between the Town of Calumet, Wisconsin (the "Town"), a municipal corporation in the State of Wisconsin, and Hilbert Communications, LLC, a Wisconsin limited liability company ("Hilbert"). The Town and Hilbert are collectively referred to as the "Parties".

RECITALS

- A. The Town seeks to promote development of high-speed broadband services to unserved and underserved areas within its boundaries and believes that cooperation with private-sector partners is necessary for the development of a county-wide broadband network that meets the needs of the County, its resident, and its businesses.
- B. To encourage and facilitate deployment of high-speed broadband service in unserved and underserved areas within the Town, the Town and Hilbert seek to enter into a public-private partnership to construct broadband infrastructure to facilitate the future development by Hilbert and/or other third-party internet service providers (the "Project").
- C. The full scope of the Project is yet to be defined but will be defined in the final partnership agreement between the Parties ("Final Partnership Agreement").
- D. The Parties intend that Hilbert, with the Town as its public partner, apply to the State of Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant Program ("Grant Program") to obtain a grant to be used to pay for a portion of the cost of constructing the Project.
- E. The Town finds the Project to be in the public interest of the residents and businesses of the Town of Calumet.

AGREEMENT

THE PARTIES agree as follows:

1. **Purpose.** By this Agreement, the Town and Hilbert agree to form a public-private partnership so that Hilbert can apply to the Grant Program to obtain funds to be applied toward construction of the Project. The Town agrees that, as Hilbert's public partner, it will cooperate with Hilbert in preparation of the grant application.
2. **Project.** The Project will be developed by Hilbert. The estimated cost of the Project is \$1,000,000.
3. **Project Funding.** In its grant application, Hilbert shall request a grant for Forty Percent (40%) of the estimate project cost. If the Grant is awarded and if the Project receives final approval from each Party's respective governing body, the Town shall contribute \$155,000 towards the cost of construction of the Project.

4. **Authorization.** Each Party represents that it has the authority to execute this Agreement.
5. **Records.** Hilbert shall provide the Town with a copy of its application to the Grant Program at the same time the application is submitted to the PSC.
6. **Termination.** This Agreement shall become effective on the Effective Date and shall terminate if Hilbert's grant application is unsuccessful. If the grant application is successful, this Agreement shall terminate one (1) year after the grant award or in the event that the Parties enter in a Final Partnership Agreement before the one (1) year period expires.
7. **Entire Agreement.** There are no representation or understandings of any kind not stated in this Agreement.
8. **Governing Law.** This Agreements shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.
9. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

Internet speed test



2.28
Mbps download

Mbps upload

Cancel

AA

🔒 🔍 speed test



Done

4 of 4

Internet speed test



3.70

Mbps download

0.71

Mbps upload

Latency: 58 ms

Server: Chicago

Your Internet connection is slow.

Your Internet connection should be able to handle one device at a time streaming a video. If multiple devices are using this connection at the same time, you may run into some slowdowns.

[LEARN MORE](#)[TEST AGAIN](#)[Feedback](#)

Done

2 of 4

Internet speed test 

4.90

Mbps download

0.38

Mbps upload

Latency: 60 ms

Server: Chicago

Your Internet connection is slow.

Your Internet connection should be able to handle one device at a time streaming a video. If multiple devices are using this connection at the same time, you may run into some slowdowns.

[LEARN MORE](#)[TEST AGAIN](#)[Feedback](#)

SPEEDTEST



PING

35

ms

DOWNLOAD

14.86

Mbps

UPLOAD

1.66

Mbps

GO



Frontier >

Chicago, IL



Frontier



5 People >

Could you please help us by providing your internet speed to me. Just google speed test from any device. Run the speed test and take a screenshot of the test and if you would text back to me I would appreciate. Your speed test only data is only going to be used no names. Thank you for considering doing so. Jodie

Julie Throne

2.78

Mbps download

0.72

Mbps upload

Latency: 77 ms

Server: Chicago

Your Internet connection is very slow.

Your Internet download speed is very low. Web browsing should work, but videos could load slowly.

[LEARN MORE](#)[TEST AGAIN](#)[Feedback](#)

J



Text Message





N9290 County Road W Malone, WI 53049 920-795-4222

"Providing A Foundation of Faith, Respect, and Life Long Learning."

December 16, 2019

Re: Charter Broadband Internet Expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for broadband internet expansion in the Johnsborg area of Wisconsin. Holyland Catholic School is located in Johnsborg and is currently serviced by the Frontier Communications Corporation for telephone and internet services. We are grateful for their services, but they are our only source, and their services leave much to be desired. When we lost telephone service earlier this year, we had to rely on cell phones to communicate with parents, but a lack of cell phone towers in this area meant seeking the best location in the school for reception, then placing the calls.

Holyland Catholic School would like to upgrade our existing computers, but unless the available internet service is increased, there is no advantage to modernizing our computer lab. However, if we do not keep current with technology, we do a dis-service to our students. Every student deserves to receive the best education possible. Rural students and their families should have access to the same technology as everyone else.

I am open to discussing internet service with any company that could, at a reasonable fee, provide improved service to this school.

Sincerely,

John J Wertschnig
Holyland Catholic School
Principal
(920) 795-4222

Breeze Dairy Group, LLC & Lake Breeze Dairy, LLC
W2651 Kiel Rd
Malone, WI 53049

January 4th, 2022

Wisconsin Public Service Commission
State Broadband Office

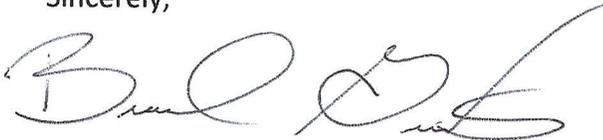
I am writing, on behalf of Lake Breeze Dairy LLC, to express strong support regarding the proposed broadband service being brought to the Town of Calumet and the possibility of routing service on Kiel Road.

Lake Breeze Dairy is a multi-family and multi-generational dairy farm operating in three different locations across Northeast Wisconsin. Across our three locations, we have 100 dedicated employees who work hard to produce high quality milk for the production of cheese. Lake Breeze Dairy milks just over 3,000 cows and has over 14 million dollars of local economic impact. Our dairies believe in strong community support and contribute to local fire departments, churches, food pantries, watershed programs, and other non-profits.

Like most businesses, we continue to evolve. Not only is our business evolving, but also the industry of agriculture. With continuous advancements in technology, new products and systems are becoming available for farms like ours to be more efficient and sustainable. Many of these offerings require high-speed internet in order function, speeds that our current internet provider cannot supply.

Installing high-speed internet service in close proximity to our farm will greatly improve our options for new technologies, as well as improve communication technologies between our three locations. We hope you consider the significant impact this service will have on our business and neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Gerrits". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "G".

Brad Gerrits

Director of Operations

Breeze Dairy Group, LLC